



# 644 Volunteer Gliding Squadron

## Royal Air Force Syerston

Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 5NG

Telephone: HQ - (01400) 264533 Airfield Mobile - (07920) 781813

Officer Commanding: Sqn Ldr R T Nadin BEng(Hons) MIET MAPM RAFVR(T)

Adjutant: Plt Off H J Poria RAFVR(T)

Website: [www.644vgs.org](http://www.644vgs.org)



Edition 3

Dec 10

### JOINING AND ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL GLIDING INDUCTION COURSE TRAINEES AND ACCOMPANYING STAFF WITH 644VGS

#### WELCOME TO 644 VOLUNTEER GLIDING SQUADRON.

1. On behalf of Squadron Leader Nadin (OC) and everyone at 644 VGS we hope you enjoy your course and your time with us. Below is some information which you may find useful.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

2. a. **Address**

644 Volunteer Gliding Squadron  
Royal Air Force Syerston,  
Newark,  
Nottinghamshire,  
NG23 5NG

b. **Contact Telephone Numbers**

644 VGS Mobile	07920 781813
644 VGS HQ	01400 264533
Plt Off Heeral Poria (Adjutant)	See <i>WGLO</i>
Sqn Ldr Richard Nadin (OC)	See <i>WGLO</i>

#### LOCATION AND ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE.

3. You should aim to arrive at RAF Syerston by 0815 in the morning. 644 VGS is located at RAF Syerston, which is located just off the A46 between Syerston and Flintham, approximately 5 miles south of Newark. The airfield is not signposted and the entrance is hard to see.

4. The buzzer on the gate is unmanned at weekends, so if you have not been supplied with the gate code please ring the Sqn HQ and a member of staff will come out to open the gate

5. You may normally expect to be free to leave by 1600, but we ask visiting staff for their flexibility to help us ensure the cadets get the most out of their visit.



## **SECURITY**

6. All MOD establishments operate a high level of security. It is important that candidates are correctly identified i.e. by their Record of Service Book. All baggage must be labelled with your name and 644VGS

## **CASH AND VALUABLES**

7. There are no facilities at Syerston for safe keeping therefore valuables will be near to hand. Do not leave money or valuables lying around.

## **MESSING**

8. There are no messing facilities available so visitors should bring their own food and drink for the day. There will be chocolate and drinks available for sale; ask a member of staff.

## **BEHAVIOUR**

9. 644 VGS is an active flying unit within the Royal Air Force and a detachment of RAF College Cranwell, and therefore, normal military regulations and etiquette apply. Staff should be paid the normal compliments and courtesies. Your behaviour not only reflects upon you as an individual but additionally your ATC Squadron/CCF Unit and the Air Cadets as an organisation.

## **CLOTHING**

10. You are to report in either No 2A or 2B Working Dress complete with beret which must be worn on arrival and departure, however, berets should not be worn when airside. You will be issued with a flying coverall on the day for when you fly. If you wish to wear trainers or any clothing underneath your flying coverall for your own convenience, please feel free to do so but bring these items with you. Exposure to wind on the airfield can affect the cadet even on relatively mild days, so choice of clothing to wear on the airfield should be practical.

## **FOOTWEAR**

11. There is no restriction on the type of footwear which may be worn while operating on the airfield. However, the following footwear, which can readily pick up and transfer soil, are not to be worn in the cockpit of Air Cadets gliders:

- a. Service boots with heavy Direct Molded Soles (DMS)
- b. Wellington boots
- c. Boots or shoes with deep tread soles



12. Shoes or lightweight boots with a smooth sole are preferred for wear in the cockpit but shoes or lightweight boots with a shallow tread are acceptable.

### **FITNESS TO FLY**

13. If at any time if you are unwell or do not feel fit to fly, please inform your instructor. If you have had or have got a head cold your instructor needs to know.

### **PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS**

14. Cadets should be aware that there are certain limitations in respect of weight and sitting height for the Vigilant aircraft as follows:

- a. Maximum sitting height measured from seat to top of head, 99.23 cm. A 3cm head clearance should be maintained.
- b. Maximum weight dressed for gliding excluding parachute, 103 Kg. (A Mk 71/72 parachute weighs 7 Kg).
- c. Minimum weight with parachute, 45 Kg.

### **LOOSE ARTICLES**

15. Before you go flying please check your pockets for loose articles including pens, coins etc. You must never take loose articles flying with you to the aircraft as they could become free and end up in the worst case jamming the aircraft controls. Items such as earrings, necklaces and hair grips are included.

### **THE GROB 109B 'VIGILANT' MOTOR GLIDER**

16. 644 VGS is equipped with the Grob 109B 'Vigilant' Motor Glider. The Vigilant is a self-launched motor glider with an airframe made out of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP).

- |    |                     |                                 |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. | Wing Span           | 17.4m                           |
| b. | Wing Area           | 19 Sq m                         |
| c. | Length              | 8.1 m                           |
| d. | Height              | 1.7m                            |
| e. | Max Flying Weight   | 908kg                           |
| f. | Engine              | Grob 2500 developing 95hp       |
| g. | Climbing Speed      | 55 knots                        |
| h. | Normal Flight Speed | 60 knots                        |
| i. | Approach Speed      |                                 |
|    | (1)                 | 65 knots (Headwind < 15 knots). |
|    | (2)                 | 70 knots (Headwind > 15 knots). |



## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

17. Should you not be able to fly due to bad weather, you will be given the chance of a hangar tour to see the various aircraft.

## **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

18. Any airfield is a potentially dangerous place. You must keep your wits about you and behave sensibly at all times. In particular:

- a. Always treat aircraft propellers as live. Keep clear of them by at least a metre.
- b. Never approach the aircraft from directly in front. Approach from the side and get into the cockpit from the left hand side.
- c. Never leave the cockpit doors open, even in the lightest of winds, as they can slam shut causing the glass to break. This can be very expensive and will put the aircraft unserviceable for several months.
- d. When walking across the dispersal keep out of the way of taxiing aircraft.
- e. Always listen to instructions from squadron staff, including the Flight Staff Cadets regardless of rank. They know the safety issues affecting both the aircraft and you!

## **WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU**

19. You will need to bring with you a signed F3822 or Record of Service Book with parental permission to fly; without this you may be unable to fly. You will also need a Gliding Programme Sheet (ACP 20A, ACTI No 32) with the columns A – G filled out before arrival. A copy of ACTI 32 ACP20A can be found at Annex A.

{Original Signed}

**R T Nadin  
Sqn Ldr  
OC 644 VGS**

ANNEXES:

- A. Gliding Programme Sheet

**GLIDING INDUCTION COURSES – GLIDING PROGRAMME SHEET**

VGS No ..... VGS Telephone No. .... ATC Sqn or CCF(RAF) Section .....  
Date to fly ..... Time due to arrive ..... No of places allocated at the VGS .....

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ATC SQN OR CCF (RAF) SECTION BEFORE DEPARTURE TO THE VGS							TO BE COMPLETED AT THE VGS				Suitable GS (Yes/No)			
First Name and Surname of Cadet or Adult Staff to fly	Class or Rank	Age (if cadet)	Cadet's Record of Service Completed	Flown in VGS Gliders Before (Yes/No)	Weight of Cadet in Kg	Previously Completed GIC (Yes/No)	Pilot's Name	Glider Tail Number	Duration of Flights (Minutes)					
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)				(k)	
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														
6.														
7.														
8.														
9.														
10.														
11.														
12.														
Signature of OC ATC Sqn or OC CCF (RAF) Section.....							Signature of OC VGS .....							
Name and Rank .....							<b>BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE VISIT (l)</b>							
(See Instructions for use overleaf)							Signature of Accompanying Adult .....							
							Name .....							

## **GLIDING PROGRAMME SHEET - INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

1. **OC ATC SQN or OC CCF (RAF) SECTION.** The OC is to ensure the form is completed at columns a to g before it is handed to the officer or adult in charge of the party of cadets. After the form is returned to him on completion of gliding, the OC is to feed back to the VGS any comments about the gliding **or** the visit. The OC should also find out why any cadets failed to attend after having their names put on the list. The form is to be retained for the Annual Report and a copy is to be forwarded to the Wg HQ or CCF Liaison Officer.
2. **OFFICER OR ADULT IN CHARGE OF ATC OR CCF PARTY.** The officer or adult in charge of the party travelling to the VGS is to use the form for roll calls and is to amend it as necessary. He is to hand the form to the OC at the VGS on arrival, assist with completing it during the day, collect it on departure, and return it to the OC ATC Sqn or CCF (RAF) section.
3. **VGS DUTY INSTRUCTOR.** The VGS Duty Instructor is to arrange for columns h to k to be completed during the day.

4. Details for completing the form are as follows:

<b>Column a.</b>	Show <b>first name</b> and <b>surname</b> .
<b>Column b.</b>	Show cadet class (eg Leading Cadet) or adult rank or class (eg Fg Off/CI/etc.)
<b>Column c</b>	Show cadet's age in years.
<b>Column d.</b>	Check that the Cadet's Record of Service Book has been signed for permission to fly, and then initial column d.
<b>Column e.</b>	Show whether or not the individual has flown in a VGS glider before.
<b>Column f.</b>	State the cadets weight (fully clothed less parachute) in Kg.
<b>Column g.</b>	Show if the individual has already completed a gliding induction course (GIC)
<b>Column h.</b>	Record the pilot's name.
<b>Column i.</b>	Record the glider tail number. (All Vikings are prefixed ZE and most Vigilants prefixed ZH).
<b>Column j.</b>	Record the number of launches and total duration of the flights in minutes. Five columns are provided – which should be enough to record 5 Viking launches for a GIC.
<b>Column k.</b>	State whether cadet is suitable for a Gliding Scholarship.
<b>Column l. Comments on the Visit.</b>	Provide <b>brief</b> comments, eg 'curtailed due to bad weather', etc.